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FOR EUR/SE, NEA/I, AND S/CT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2016

TAGS: PREL PGOV PTER IZ TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY/IRAQ: TURKEY PREPARED FOR PKK BILATERALS
SEPTEMBER 13-14 IN ANKARA, TURKISH ENVOY NOT YET NAMED

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ROSS WILSON FOR REASONS 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) MFA Deputy Undersecretary Rafet Akgunay told Ambassador September 5 that the GOT will be prepared to host bilateral talks in Ankara during the September 13-14 time period with U.S. Special Envoy for Countering the PKK General (ret) Joseph Ralston and delegation. Akgunay said the MFA will coordinate with the Turkish General Staff (TGS), National Intelligence Organization (TNIO) and Interior Ministry to arrange appropriate meetings for General Ralston in Ankara. As Foreign Minister Gul will be out of town at that time, MFA Undersecretary Ali Tuygan will meet Ralston as the senior MFA official.

¶2. (C) Akgunay said the GOT is still considering naming its own special envoy for bilateral and subsequent trilateral (U.S.-Turkey-Iraq) meetings and hopes to announce its choice for this position prior to Ralston's arrival in Turkey.

¶3. (SBU) Akgunay requested that we inform the MFA of General Ralston's travel plans as soon as possible so the GOT can begin preparations for the talks.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON